

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2002-66-C - ORDER NO. 2002-194
MARCH 20, 2002

IN RE: Petition of HTC Communications, Inc. for) ORDER ESTABLISHING
Arbitration of an Interconnection Agreement) ARBITRATION PLAN ✓ D.W.
with Verizon South, Inc.) AND SCHEDULE

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") on a Petition for Arbitration filed by HTC Communications, Inc. ("HTC") on March 1, 2002, involving it and Verizon South, Inc. f/k/a GTE South Incorporated ("Verizon") (collectively referred to as the "Parties"). The Petition was filed pursuant to the provisions of Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("1996 Act"). By its Petition, HTC requests the Commission to arbitrate and decide unresolved issues related to negotiation of an interconnection agreement between HTC and Verizon, with respect to interconnection between the Parties in the State of South Carolina. Section 252 (b)(4)(C) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 requires that a state commission hear and rule on a petition for arbitration no later than 9 months after the date on which the local exchange carrier received the request for negotiation. We must therefore hear and rule on this matter on or before June 22, 2002. Accordingly, we will rule on various procedural matters connected with this case in this Order and establish an Arbitration Plan.

The Arbitration Hearing in this Docket shall begin at **11:00 A.M. on Monday, May 6, 2002**, in the Commission Hearing Room.

The Commission hereby orders that twenty-five (25) copies of the direct testimony and exhibits of HTC shall be prefiled on or before **April 8, 2002**. Further, twenty-five (25) copies of the direct testimony and exhibits of Verizon shall be prefiled on or before **April 22, 2002**.

HTC shall prefile any rebuttal testimony and exhibits on or before **April 29, 2002**. Further, Verizon shall prefile any surrebuttal testimony and exhibits on or before **May 2, 2002**. It should be noted that acceptance of surrebuttal testimony and exhibits is subject to the discretion of the Commission.

The Parties shall file pre-hearing briefs with the Commission on or before **April 29, 2002**.

The parties shall serve the other parties with copies of all prefiled testimony and exhibits as well as with copies of the pre-hearing briefs. **Service on the parties and the Commission of testimony and exhibits and the pre-hearing briefs shall be made by the close of business on the dates herein specified.** If service cannot be accomplished on the dates indicated herein, service may be accomplished by facsimile transmission or e-mail transmission of the prefiled testimony and exhibits and pre-hearing briefs by the close of business on the dates specified, with over-night delivery to follow.

All parties are reminded that all witnesses must be present during the hearing in this matter at the call of the Chairman, or the Commission may decline to allow the

witnesses' testimony to be read into the record of the proceeding and/or may decline to allow the witnesses' exhibits to be entered into the evidence of the case.

Opening statements of the parties and any participants will be allowed at the beginning of the hearing. Closing statements of the parties and any participants will be allowed at the conclusion of the hearing.

Direct testimony and exhibits, as well as rebuttal and surrebuttal testimony and exhibits, of the parties' witnesses shall be presented to the Arbitrator in a panel format, with all witnesses being sworn in concurrently. Examination of witnesses will proceed issue by issue, with all witnesses on an issue being examined by both parties before proceeding to the next issue. Examination of the witnesses shall be conducted by attorneys for the Parties. The examination may be directed to specific witnesses or to the entire panel of witnesses. Responses by other witnesses, other than the witness or witnesses to whom the question is directed, may be allowed at the discretion of the Chairman.

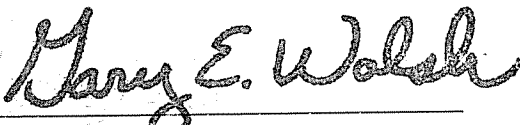
Please note that any party requesting modification of this schedule must file a request for such modification with the Commission.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)